

For all his work and dedication, we, in Guam are most thankful. Upon his retirement, I offer my congratulations for his distinguished career and my personal commendation for a job well-done. On behalf of the people of Guam, I wish him the best on his well-earned retirement and all the luck in his future endeavors. Tauspusong pasasalamat, Popoy.

CANADA: NO TRUER FRIEND

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today The Buffalo News carried an editorial entitled "No Truer Friend," expressing thanks to Canada for its support for the United States following the attacks of September 11, 2001. I commend this editorial to the attention of all Members and know they join me in thanking Canada for its long friendship, even brotherhood, with the United States.

The United States cannot, and will not, forget the special relationship between our two countries. We will not allow terrorist attacks to strain that relationship. As Canada's reaction to the events of September 11 show, Canada is the truest friend of the United States.

Again, I thank all Canadians for their steadfastness and friendship to the United States.

NO TRUER FRIEND

This is a time of tragedy and a time of crisis, and not a moment to invest nuances of diplomacy with a gravity they don't deserve. But neither can Americans allow a perceived slight to go uncorrected, or retreat so deeply into sorrow that family goes unnoticed and gratitude is neglected.

Thank you, Canada. Thank you for the support, thank you for the huge banner in Fort Erie, just across our shared river, that proclaimed "God Bless Our American Friends." Thank you for your prayers.

Here in this border city, all of us listened with understanding and approval as a president burdened with the awful weight of a terrorist onslaught, and the duty to respond to it, acknowledged the presence of Great Britain's prime minister at an extraordinary session of Congress and singled out that nation for its support. But when he properly noted the strong ties both countries have forged in the fires of adversity, that America has no truer friend, we all in our hearts added the phrase, "except Canada."

We know who our friends are. We know that the very first international act of support for America in this terrible time came from Canada, which accepted more than 200 diverted American airline flights and took care of more than 45,000 stranded passengers.

We remember Canada's role in rescuing Americans from an earlier political maelstrom in Tehran, and we remember the stirring support the late Canadian broadcaster Gordon Sinclair provided nearly 30 years ago when he took on a world that was kicking

America when it had been brought low by the Vietnam War.

We remember. Most of us in this northern city know the Canadian national anthem and many of us sing it at our shared sporting events. We also share an annual international Friendship Festival, and mean it. We quibble at times—the design of a proposed new international bridge springs to mind—but we do so as family.

Perhaps that's why President Bush didn't mention Canada in a stirring speech that focused on a global problem, but also recognized support from several nations. He may simply have been looking beyond family. "No need to praise the brother," Bush asserted while meeting with Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Washington Monday. To be frank, it more likely was just a speech-writing snafu.

Some of you, in Canada, have read into it a snub, or petulance over Canada's liberal visa problems. Please don't. We are grateful for the forensic team that was dispatched immediately from Ontario to Manhattan, for the strong and ongoing cooperation of law enforcement and border agencies, for the more than 100,000 Canadians who turned out for remembrance services on Ottawa's Parliament Hill and for the countless American flags still waving in Canadian towns.

Most of all we are grateful that, once again, Americans and Canadians stand together. We may both need to draw comfort from that in the days ahead. In fact, we already have.